

Toilet Learning

Development and Toilet Learning

Children are physiologically ready to use the toilet at 12 months but most do not start until 2 years old.

Signs of Readiness:

- Staying dry for long periods of time
- Seeking privacy when going in a diaper
- Communicating they have gone or need to go
- Showing an interest in using the toilet or wearing underwear

The Montessori Approach to Toilet Learning

Child-directed learning

The child MUST feel wet.

Cotton underpants are preferred to pull-ups and diapers.

What Can I do to help my child?

Involve the child and remove yourself from the process as much as possible

Allow the child freedom in the environment

Change the child standing up

Change your child as soon as they are wet or soiled.

Introduce the toilet as soon as possible.

Choose clothing that allows independence

Always keep toileting in the same location

Take the child to the toilet regularly

Bowel movement control may come slower.

TIPS:

Be mentally prepared

Use appropriate language

Never force, scold or over-congratulate.

Avoid using rewards.

Alternatives to diapers:

Toilet training pants made of thick fabric

Plastic covers over underpants.

Waterproof sheets/towels on the bed for nighttime

